DESERET EVENING NEWS.

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REMOVING OVERHEAD WIRES.

After a hard legal fight which has continued in various forms for nearly two and a half years, the California courts have settled finally the question in that state as to whether a municipality can order, by ordinance, electric and other wires to be removed from poles and housetops and placed under ground. The finding on all the points in the controversy is wholly in favor of the municipal authorities. In substance, it is held that exposed electric wires, or a network of wires, on housetops and poles, are a menace to the public, and while the use of such wires is a necessity for the public good and must be submitted to in that form when no better method is known, yet it has been shown that the conduit system can be made applicable for the care and conduct of the wires, and as it affords greater safety to the public than the other system, the municipality can enforce its adoption.

The attitude of the courts on this subject is of local interest from the fact that the question of removing overhead wires will have to be dealt with in Utah cities at an early date. Some of the corporations using wires already are seeking to change to the underground system, realizing that such change will be yet required for the public good, and will be easier to make by gradual work with new lines than under a compulsory order of the city council. The California case, like a local agitation some time since in Salt Lake, arose from the fact that the wires were serious obstacles to the firemen in the discharge of their duty both by day and by night. It was sought to prove that the wires were properly insulated, and were provided with patent "breaks," by which the current could be cut off instantly; and that if the firemen were to use rubber gloves and certain kinds of instruments in handling and cutting heavily charged wires, there would be no danger.

But the court held that there was danger that the patent "break," would get out of order, or by disarrangement of the wires at a fire be unattainable, and that it would not be judicious to hamper the firemen in their work by requiring them to wear rubber gloves, or to hunt for a wooden handled sharp instrument when they wanted to move or cut a wire. It is held also that the removal of the wires by the city, at the company's expense, is a proper procedure when the company fails to comply with the municipal order; adding that "the practice as it now prevails, against which the ordinance is directed, is shown to be dangerous, and we ourselves all know it to be so. There can be no successful disputing of the fact. The order is general and applicable to all. If it is not enforced as to all, it ought to be." The reasoning follows that of the New York court of appeals, and of Justice Field, of the Supreme court, on similar questions.

NO FIELD FOR ANARCHY.

If the information conveyed in a dispatch proves correct, that a gigantic conspiracy has been unearthed in Chicago, planned for the purpose of destroying property by fire and attempting a genuine anarchistic uprising, severe measures should be taken to exterminate the whole gang, or at least render its members harmless. Public safety requires this. But still more, it is necessary to give the anarchists abroad an effective warning that this country is no prosperous field for the propagation of their doctrines. There seems to be an idea among foreign anarchists that a country where liberty prevails and the laborers constitute a controlling element, is ripe for their teachings. This mistake is perhaps natural to those who do not know that the American workingman is, everything considered, far different from the starving masses of European countries. Every sober, industrious laborer in this country has some property, some interests to guard against destructive [illegible], and these are therefore likely to find among the working classes their most potent opponents. The sooner they learn this fact the better for themselves; and if the lesson of the Haymarket tragedy is already forgotten, something is needed to refresh the memory of the followers of the red flag.

In this connection Emma Goldman's recent oration in New York should be remembered. That lady, who openly professes anarchism, complains of being "persecuted" by the courts, by officials whom she considers infinitely inferior to the assassin of President Carnot. "Imagine," she exclaims, "the prosecution of a woman for talking!" But would she claim that her sex is endowed with the privilege of preaching murder without being held responsible for it? If so, she needs to learn that she is mistaken; and her employers, who possibly meet the expenses of her missionary work, must be made to understand it also. American freedom of speech is sacred; but it never was and never can be understood to be liberty to preach doctrines overturning the society or violating its laws. It is the liberty for each citizen to contribute his or her wisdom, the result of his or her experience and knowledge, to the general fund of information, for the advancement of the state and the betterment of the conditions of its people, morally, intellectually or politically. But if it be diverted from this purpose and used as an instrument of destruction, it is no more sacred than the sword of a traitor, which was given him for the defense of his country. The American people understand this difference and are competent to point out, whenever the occasion shall arise, that the distinction is essential.

LIVED MORE THAN A CENTURY.

A cablegram announces that the subscription started for Professor Nicolas de Savin, who has been living in poverty in Paris for some years, has reached such proportions that there is no danger of his again going short of the comforts of life. The fund was subscribed to in both France and Russia. Nicolas de Savin is said to be the oldest man living, or at least whose age can be definitely determined. He was born in Paris on the 17th of April, 1798. He witnessed all the great events of the Revolution. He was in the expedition to Egypt, fought at Austerlitz and Jena, was wounded at Saragossa, and decorated with the cross of the Legion of Honor, and was all through the Russian campaign in the Third Corps under Marshal Ney. At Beresina he was surrounded by Cossacks. The splendid fight that he made against terrific odds won the admiration of Count Platoff, who rushed in and saved his life. He was made a prisoner of war and sent at first to Iaroslav and afterward to Saratof. In this latter town he remained for over sixty years, earning his living as a professor of French. He was engaged in teaching until after he was a hundred years old, but his earnings were not such as to give him a competency for his declining years. This, however, has been provided by the recent arrangement.

Referring to long-lived people, it is pretty well established that abnormal longevity is more common among the Russians than any other of the European nations. From an official report it is shown that the province of Kieff takes precedence in Russia in this respect. The report records fourteen deaths in that province, during 1893, of persons who were over a hundred years old. The combined ages of these centenarians was 1,[illegible] years. In Vasilkoff there died one man in his 116th year, and a Jewess aged 105. In Berditscheff one man had reached the age of 114 years before shuffling off this mortal coil, and another had reached 101 years. In the city of Kieff one man who died was 110 years old, and two women aged 104 and 102 years respectively. In Svenigorodka there was a man of 110 years; in Tarastcha, another of 10[illegible]; in Uman, two men aged respectively 109 and 102 years; in Radomyssl, a Jew aged 107 and a Christian aged 10[illegible]; and, lastly, a man of 103 years died at Tcherkassy. Among those living is mentioned, in the town of Saratof, where de Savin was imprisoned, a veteran of the First Napoleon's army.

"SCOTCH official corruption wherever found" strikes an exchange; to which may well be added, "Irish, English, German, American and every other kind of official corruption wherever found should be not scotched but killed."

IS THERE anything practicable for Utah watermasters and irrigators in the following:

Mowing grass under the water was accomplished on the Chesapeake and Ohio canal a few days ago. An ordinary [illegible] mowing machine was fastened at the bottom and attached to the rear of a scow drawn by a heavy team. The machine cut a wide swath, and sent to the surface tons of long river grass which had greatly impeded navigation.

THE Baltimore American figures it out in this [illegible] manner, which, however, tells of some of the expenses the A. R. U. was to the workingman: Debs gets $[illegible] a year; the vice-president and the secretary get $[illegible] each; the six directors receive $1,500 each; there are 70 organizers who receive $5 a day; ten clerks are employed with wages of from $3 to $4 a day. The strike headquarters in Chicago cost $[illegible] a month; 1,000 telegrams a day which have been sent and received since the strike began cost from $[illegible] to $[illegible]. The missionary work of sending speakers to attend public and stirring halls means in the aggregate $1,000 a day. Who pays this? Well, the organization has 145,000 members, who contribute 25 cents each to the sinking fund, as the expenses of Mr. Debs and his associates are fully $[illegible] a year, the question is—How will they meet their bills? They have voted themselves out of work, and no wages will be coming to them.

THE SPRINGFIELD *Republican* has a grievance against the laws of this Territory, and gives utterance to it thus:

The laws of the Territory of Utah give a condemned criminal the right to choose the manner of his taking off, but limit the choice to shooting or hanging. A wife murderer was convicted in Salt Lake City the other day and was ordered to be confined in the prison at Provo until September 14, when the United States marshal is ordered to "take the said defendant to some private place in Utah county" and there shoot him to death or cause him to be shot to death. This law smacks strongly of border civilization and will be a good one for the new state to repeal.

What would our esteemed contemporary have? Is the "border civilization" complained of any more offensive than the down-east variety which, as the *Republican's* own files testify, takes fifteen or twenty minutes to strangle a murderer to death, or roasts him to death in an electrical chair, with froth gushing from his lips and "an odor of burning flesh filling the room?"

False Economy.—To get the full flavor and strength, one has to use more of a cheap tea than of a good tea. The Prize of Japan Tree Tea is the best flavored and goes farthest. Therefore it is cheapest for you to buy this brand.

EXCURSION VIA UNION PACIFIC

Wednesday, August 22nd.

On above date the Union Pacific will sell excursion tickets to following points, at the lowest rates ever given, from Salt Lake City:

[illegible]

Limit on tickets sold to Willard, Corinne, Ogden, and all points intermediate, will be ten days; limit on tickets to all other points will be fifteen days. Tickets will be good on all regular trains on date of sale, August 22nd.

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Commencing July 10, Garfield Beach Trains will Run as Follows:

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2:00 p. m.	4:40 p. m.
3:00 p. m.	6:05 p. m.
5:00 p. m.	8:10 p. m.
10:30 p. m.	†11:00 p. m.

*Daily except Sunday. †Daily except Monday.

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[illegible]

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